

## THE THREE MODERATORS.

[Written on the almost simultaneous appearance of three expositions of ecclesiastical views—the Addresses by the Moderators of the Established and Free Church Assemblies of Scotland, and an Allocution at Rome by the Pope on the State of the Catholic Church.]

AIR—*Abraham Newland.*

WHEN a clerical set  
 In Assembly are met,  
 They are apt to prove angry debaters ;  
 So, their wrath to restrain,  
 And due calmness maintain,  
 They have men that are called Moderators.  
 All Churches should have Moderators,  
 And should choose them of peaceable *natures* ;  
 Much trouble it saves  
 When some oil on the waves  
 Can be poured by your true Moderators.

But this good class of men,  
 I'm afraid, now and then,

To their office of peace have proved traitors ;  
 And too much, on the whole,  
 Have kept blowing the coal,  
 When they ought to have been Moderators.  
 What a pity that Church Moderators,  
 Like so many Vesuvian craters,  
 Should send forth, in their ire,  
 Thunder, fury, and fire  
 All around these inflamed Moderators.

I took pains to compare  
 The harangues from the chair  
 Lately made by two Reverend Paters ;  
 And I read, the same day,  
 What the Pope had to say—  
 For the Popes are just Rome's Moderators.\*  
 The Pope and our two Moderators  
 Are surely not three Agitators !  
 Yet it's clear that the *first*,  
 Who, I hope, is the worst,  
 Is no model for true Moderators.

One famous divine,  
 In his humorous line,

\* The Pope and Cardinals, in their original constitution, may be said to have been simply the Moderator and Presbytery of Rome, the Cardinals being the supposed clergy of the City Churches.

Could not fail to delight all spectators ;  
    But some thought to his tongue  
    An astringency clung,  
Scarcely known to our old Moderators.  
The *third* of these same Moderators  
I wish may have some imitators :  
    For Bisset to me,  
    Seemed the best of the three,  
And comes nearest our true Moderators.